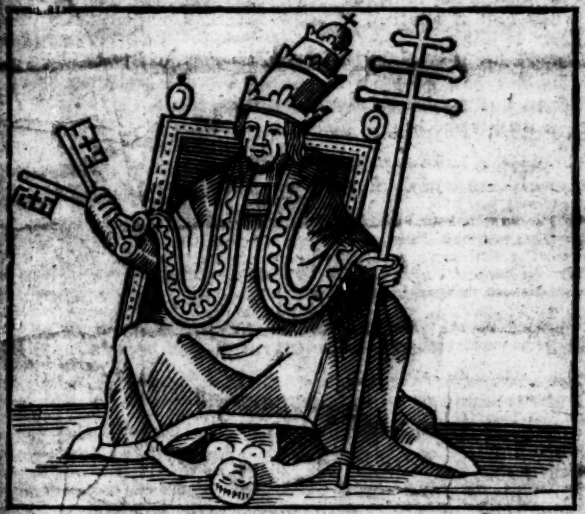
THE HISTORY OF THE LIFE and DEATH OF *POPE JOANE:*

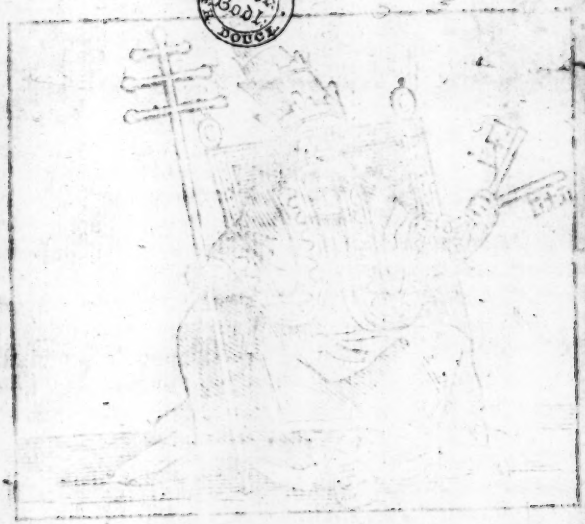
Who was elected to the Papacy, *An.* 855.
Under the name of
Johannes Anglus of *Mentz* in *Germany.*
Publiſhed as an Advertiſement to all Papiſts.

Faithfully collected and aſſerted by *H. J. Gent.*



London, Printed for *F. Coles,* at the Lamb in the *Old Baily.*
1663.

EX DONO
Bibl.
Bodl.
DOUCE



THE HISTORY

Of the LIFE and DEATH of

POPE JOANE, &c.

THE Nativity and Genealogy of ſome eminent perſons, whoſe Actions and Fortunes have rendred them Famous or Infamous to future Times, are not unlikely compared to great Rivers, whoſe ſprings and Riſes are moſt commonly unknown, or very uncertain, becauſe of thoſe indiſcernible conveyances and ſubterraneous hidden paſſages, and the unobſervableneſſe of thoſe little Brooks and Rivulets, that concurre to make up their ſwollen Channels; (one Reaſon why ſome choice men are challenged by ſeveral Countries to derive thence their Life and Originals) Beſides the remarkable reſult of ſome perſons greatneſſe, by ſtrange and ſecret progreſſions, do like a deluge or inundation carry all things ſo before them, beyond any reparation or recovery, and are of ſo ſudden violence, that they leave the World rather in wonder and amazement at their effects, then afford any inquiſition or poſſible knowledge of their Cauſes.

This Woman, or *Sybilla Pontificia* will appeare to be one of those grand Incognito's, as to any particulars of her Parentage and Extraction; for had she been possibly to be known, who and whence she was, it had been impossible she should have been what she was. It will suffice to say, that by the agreement and consent of many Popish Writers, who first broached this story themselves (as shall abundantly hereafter be declared and manifested in their several Testimonies hereunto added) and cannot be taxed or charged with Heresie or Schisme, being written long before *Luthers* Reformation; She is named by that Masculine Appellation she took and assumed to her self (like Knight Errants that change their former name when they commence their Martial Atchievments) upon the beginning of her Mercuriall and Learned adventures.

So that she is known before her advancement to the Papall Dignity, by the name of *Johannes Anglus*, or *Anglicus Moguntinus*, *John English* of *Mentz*, a City in *Germany* standing neer the River of *Rhine*, the chiefe seat of one of the Ecclesiastical Princes Electors of that Empire; who is stiled and denominated of this place, well worthy of the Birth it gave to this spirituall Female Potentate; though by this name, some Writers have been erroneously induced to change her Country, and to ascribe her birth to *England*.

She is conceived as by presumptuous conjectures it may be maintained, to have been born about the year of the Incarnation 810, or very near thereabouts, of very mean Relations, but of a very great and active Spirit, surmounting the weakness & natural desidiency & unpromptitude of her Sex: obliged to the special kindnesses of *Minerva*, whose illustrious Graces were abated and dulled with the joint influences of *Venus*; whose maligne conjunction and interposition spoyled all, and made this Queen of *Sheba* after all her researches and travels for Wisdome, a Concubine and a Strumpet.

Her

Her Friends neceſſities not able to maintain and ſuſtaine her body, much leſſe Furniſh and Repleniſh her mind, which before her puberty longed inſatiably for the Apples of knowledge, gave her occaſion to bethink her ſelfe of removing from that unhappy and injurious condition of her reſidence with her Friends, into another more favourable and Hoſpitall place, and to reſolve to that purpoſe to Travel and ſeek out ſuch a convenience, where ſhe might attaine her impatient deſires of being accompliſhed in all the learned Sciences.

She was grown to ſome maturity, when ſhe acted this deliberation and reſolution to effect; a young man her Lover, or rather *Paramour* offering his Company and kindneſſe to the expedition; and thereupon ſhe determined to diſguiſe her ſelf under the Counterfeit of the male Sex, and took the name aboveſaid, and ſo Accoutred and accompanied began her Journey; which after much wandring and peregrination, terminated at laſt at *Athens*, once the great and famous Lady and Miſtreſſe of all Literature and newly then reſtored to ſome degree of thoſe perfections, for which in former times ſhe was moſt deſervedly celebrated and famed.

The Ruins of Antiquity (to which the Papall Right & opinions are beholding to for moſt of their Traditions, and therefore not to be Argued by them in this Caſe againſt the received Authorities for it) have left no exact inſtances of her Converſation in this Academy; nor indeed can further notice be taken or required of ſuch perſons of ſuch Excellence and Conſummate qualities, then by the moſt notable and eximious Conſpicuity and Demonſtration thereof, which gives credit like the Summe and groſs of great and wonderful actions, to their ſmall and gradational riſes. But becauſe this *Athens* ſtory is made a grand exception and refutation of ſuch a thing as *Pope Joane*, in the concluſion of this tranſcript and endeavour, that and other objections ſhall be anſwered.

This

This must be in the *Interim* asserted, that this *Joane* was a great and sudden proficient in all the Studies of that place; nor is it thought she ever attained to them by any Magick (of which without the cavil of any Protestant, some Popes have been Condemned; as namely, *Sylvester* the second, whose Character as not so immediately necessary to this work in hand may be forborn) but by the course and ordinary method of the place, though by the unusual extraordinary felicity of her parts, Nature and Ingenuity.

But this debonarity of her intellectuals was not defæcated and freed from the soyls and pollutions of her naturals and morals; the Records of her being in this place are not altogether silent what Acts she kept in this University with her *Enamourato*, though how she past from the Dignities and Honours here (as perhaps infamed and secretly withdrawn hence to avoid publique scandal) is not manifestly and evidently described.

But that such a person came to *Rome* from *Athens*, from the *Dame* to the *Empresse* of the world (not to say from the Matron to the Prostitute) it will be no difficulty to evince; and that this *Pope Joane* did sit in Saint *Peters* Chaire, and performed all the Offices of that pretended Supremacy during that Papacy will be as little; and when we have settled her in that *Chair*, it will be no incongruous complement to bring her to *Bed*. And therefore we betake our selvs to Testimonies, wherein following my Authors Rule, I will use some part of their own Language in the Original Latine, and because the verity thereof depends upon number of Authentique witnesses (of their own party too,) I will not grudge the Reader my trouble, nor deceive him by any designe; and first we will mention the names of all such Historians or other Writers that do maintain there was such a Pope as *Joan*, and then those of the Papal side, who oppugne and deny it.

The maintainers of it are *Marianus Scotus*, *Sigebert*, *Gotefridus*, *Viterbiensis*, *Johannes de Parisiis*, *Martinus Polonus*,

lonus, *Petrarch*, *Boccace*, *Ranulphus Ceſtrenſis*, *Johannes Lucidus*, *Alphonſus E Carthagena*, *Theodoricus de Niem*, *Chalcocondiles* a *Grecian* Writer, and *Wernerus Rolerink*, *Platina*, (the chief and moſt reſented and quarrelled) *Palmerius*, *Nauclerus*, *Sabellicus*, *Trithemius*, *Volateran*, *Bergomenſis*, *Schedel*, *Laziardus*, *Fulgoſus*, *Textor*, an Epiſtle Written by the Univerſities of *Paris*, *Oxford*, and *Prague*, to all at *Rome*, *Mantuan*, *Crantius*, and *Charanza*, and a number more of the Papiſtical Faction of all Nations: in ſhort, *Onuphrius* himſelf, the great and firſt oppoſer of this Truth, confeſſeth; *Multos & magni nomini viros*, *Hiſtoriam hanc ſuſcipere*, *eam quoque vulgo veram exiſtimari*; that a great many men, and of great Fame doe receive this ſtory, and that among the vulgar it is believed for true.

The other Antagoniſts beſides this *Onuphrius* a Fryar (who writ in One Thouſand five Hundred ſixty ſix, & was the firſt Champion of them all, though almoſt Seven Hundred years after the prank was plaid) were no leſſe then Cardinal *Bellarmine*, Cardinal *Baronius*, and one *Flerimundus* a *French-man*, a fine quirking fellow, whoſe diſputes like his Country Faſhions, were as gay and pretty, ſo vain and ridiculous; but when the two great Cardinals, as any the Church of *Rome* [can boaſt of, applied themſelves to the ſtreſſe of the Controverſie, we may be ſure ſomething more then ordinary engaged their appearance; *Nec deus interſit niſi dignus vindice nodus.*

Come we now to the matter of fact, and becauſe *Platina* in his lives of the Popes, an Hiſtorian of good Credit among themſelves, being counted a moſt Learned man by *Trithemius*, hath fairly and equally delivered the ſtory, we will ſhew it in his words——*Johannes Anglicus ex Moguntia oriundus malis artibus*, &c. *Pontificatum Adeptus eſt*, *mentitus enim ſexum cum fœmina eſſet*, &c. the whole Engliſh was thus,——*John Engliſh born at* Mentz, *got the Popedome, as men ſay, by evil Means; For he diſſembled his Sex being a Woman indeed, and when ſhe was very young*

ſhe

she went to Athens *with a Scholar who was in Love with her, where by hearing of good Readers, all good Learning she profited so well, that when she came to* Rome, *she had few fellows, but never a one her better. Now by reading and disputing learnedly and wittily, she got so much credit, that upon* Pope Leo *the Fourth his Death, she was chosen in his room (as* Martian *writes) by common consent.*

But within a while after she proved with Child by one of her own servants, and though she carried all closely for a time, yet at length as she went to St. John Laterans, *between the* Theatre, *called the* Colosses *and* St. Clements, *she fell in Travel, and was delivered of a Child, (a Boy) and dyed in the place (others add she was also buried under that stone or monument of this disgrace) which was in the second year, first moneth, and fourth day of her Raigne, and she was buried without any Solemnity.*

Let not the Reader wonder at this her Assumption to the Mitre by reason of her Learning, for in that age very little sufficed the whole Conclave, and a bigger place then that, the whole world, for a Pedant Grammarian, passed then for a *Sophy*, and *A B C*'s were almost Oracles; Nay *Bellarmine* in return of this story was not afraid of this happy luxuriancy, as to confess it in a more critical and curious age, by way of Droll, upon Queen *Elizabeth*, that the Church (meaning of *England*) had got a Woman also to her *Head*.

I omit other Confirmations of this Truth, onely I shall particularize that she succeeded *Leo* the Fourth, in the year 855, and was succeeded By Pope *Benedict* the Third, in 858. which answers the time above mentioned of two years and some moneths, and supplies that place which the Papists have endeavoured to continue from *Leo* to *Benedict*, though they justle out a Pope *John* by number the Eighth, (which name this *Joane* borrowed, as the Papall Custom is upon their Election) and instead of a Four and Twentieth, of that name will not reckon but a three & twentieth; imputing this their false reckoning, to the impiety

piety of *John* the Twelfth, whose story we avoid; Onely thus much in Honour to the Name may be added, that the reason why *Joane* and other her Successors chose this name, was for this reason out of the New Testament—— *There was a man sent from God whose name was* John; but sure there was never a Woman of that name had any mission. But I will not too far anticipate my matter.

For to return, *Joan* having by her Learning, and the Fame she had raised of her self by her disputations in the Schools, (whether the Nobles and great Personages resorted) two years together, (a rarity in those dayes, as before) ascended the Chaire, did with no lesse gravity, seeming prudence and Authority, as well as Piety, behave her self to a general good esteeme and respect; She Consecrated and made Prelates, She ordained Presbyters and Deacons; She Administred the Sacraments, and Finally all the Offices that pertained to the pretended High Priest, as came in her way during the short time of her Raign, she executed in every respect; and this *Cornelius Agrippa*, a man much Commended by Pope *Leo* the Tenth, writ in a book of his solemnly priviledged by the Emperour *Charles* the Fifth.

And this had been no great scandal to the Church of *Rome*, who yet deny this to be true, and call for an account of her Transactions, with the Emperour or any other Christian Prince; (as it was then the Popes Fashion to intermeddle with Temporal Affairs, and to inaugurate and Confirme Christian Potentates) but her Raign was so short, that no such occurrence happened no more then in other Popes times, as *Anastatius*, &c. Withal *Joan* had other private business to mind, which might take her off from busying her self in those wrangling matters and angry Debates and Disputes about power and jurisdiction. She had mancipated her self to sensuality and *Cupids* Dominion, to the loving embraces of her own

Chamberlaine, whom she more minded then all the Monarchs in the world. I forbear out of respect to the Venerable Dignity of St. *Peters* Chaire, to mention her libidinous converse with that fellow any further, leaving them in those abominable secrets, which need a night and the darkness of oblivion to conceale and abolish them.

It will suffice to the Ingenious Reader, that she was impregnated by this fellow, and no other person made privy to the burden of her Belly, which through her ignorance, or want of right Computation, or some precipitatancy of nature delivered it self in her pompous procession from the *Vatican*, to St. *John* of *Lateran*: but with such pain and speedy Torment, that the Mitred Mother died instantly thereof, and the Heir to the Popedome left it to her Successors at the same instant, at the old rack rent of *Simony*.

The Papists here again cavil at the unlikelinesse of this story, for that none but aged persons are elected to this dignity, when they have exceeded the years within which this teeming may be supposed, and that by the smoothnesse of her Face she might likewise have been discovered; to the first it is answered, that several Popes have been elected under the Age of Forty, as *Leo* the Tenth, as *Gregory* the Eleventh, and *Boniface* the Ninth, *John* the Twelfth, *alias* Thirteenth, *Benedict* the Ninth; as to the second, it was in those times the Fashion for the Clergy to shave themselves: and as men by shaving may make themselves look like Women, so Women by often shaving, may make themselves look like men, and therefore there was no reason they should suspect her for want of a Beard.

All the City upon news of this strange accident, were in amazement, but the Clergy recovering themselves out of the stun and perplexity thereof, caused her to be buried in the same place instantly, whereafter a Marble Image was set up as a Monument thereof in the same place where she miscarried; which monument was likewise to be seen within these few years, even in *Pius* the Fifth his time:

repre-

repreſenting a Woman in Childbed, with a Boy or Infant new born, which the ſaid *Pius Quintus* threw into the *Tyber*, upon pretence, that it cumbred the ſtreet: but in truth that he might extinguiſh the Memory of that ſhamefull Fact, and this a Jeſuite hath acknowledged, one *Elias Haſſen Muller*, in his Hiſtory of the Order of Jeſuits. and of their Father and Mother. The like Image was ſet up among the reſt of the Images of the Popes, in the renowned Church of *Siena* (the birth place of this Pope *Alexander* the Seventh) in *Italy*, and was to be ſeen there within leſſe then Sixty years, (but thrown down by Pope *Clement* the Eighth) which the Biſhop of the place would not ſuffer to be defaced, at the laſt repayring of the Church, though the Jeſuits did earneſtly preſs and requeſt him to deface it; The like is in pictures in ſeveral Romiſh books.

Now becauſe of that Marble Image ſtanding in one of the chief ſtreets of *Rome*; the Popes when they go in proceſſion, refuſe to go through that ſtreet in deteſtation of the Fact, and go further about; though to ſlur this remarque alſo, the Papiſts ſay it is becauſe that ſtreet is little and winding, and is not roomy enough for the Popes great Train in ſuch Solemnities: but that's a meer ſhift, for as ſoon as ever by going into narrower lanes and circumambulation, the Pope hath left the place of that Image behind him, he turns into the ſame ſtreet again, and proceeds directly in his way.

But of further evidences of the Truth hereof, the Chair whereon the Pope is ſet immediately after his Nomination and Election in the Conclave of the Cardinals is none of meaneſt; it is a Chair made like a Cloſe Stool, wherein he then ſits before publication is made of his Aſſumption to the papacy, which the loweſt Cardinal Deacon, (whoſe office it is) undergoes to try if the Pope have Male Genitals, and upon his being certified thereof by attrectation of them; he cries out to the reſt —— *Mas nobis Dominus eſt*, *i. e.* we have a Man to our Lord; ſo juſtly fearful are they to have the ſame trick put upon them again.

This they likewiſe triflingly think to evade. *Florimondus* ſaying, that the Pope ſits therein, not in a Corner, but in the great Church of St. *Lateran*, whether all the World almoſt comes to ſee him, where he is attended by the whole Colledge of Cardinals, and whereat there are many Embaſſadours of Kings and Princes, and ſo denyeth the probation and Experiment made in the ſaid Conclave; and further they alledge, that his ſitting in that Chair, is to put him in mind that he is not God but Man, in as much as he ſtands in need of a *Cloſe-ſtool*, as well as others: but no doubt there are more obvious and plainer admonitions to be made uſe of to that purpoſe; as King *Philip* of *Macedon* had a Boy, who every morning conſtantly ſaluted him with this Note, *Remember thou art Mortal*; but that this diſaſtrous and diſgraceful accident could by no common ordinary Memento, be reduced and hinted to their exacteſt care and inſpection.

As for their other gloſs of *Bellarmines* own framing: that the Pope is ſet on ſuch a Stool, to ſignifie how he is raiſed from baſe Eſtate to ſupreme Honour, it is a meer fallacy, for the Popes for many years ſince this *Pope Joane* have been choſen for the moſt part out of the Colledge of Cardinals: And the Cardinals Eſtate is not ſo baſe, as that he who from thence is advanced to the papacy, can be truely ſaid to be taken in any ſort from off a Cloſe-ſtool; For they are generally Princes Fellowes, (and our *Cardinall Woolſey*, who was not aſhamed to prefix his own name before the Kings, loudly ſpeakes as much,) and Pope *Sixtus Quintus* affirmed, that the Height and ſplendour of a Cardinalſhip is equal to the Regall Dignity; wherefore unleſſe ſome better Reaſon can be given, why the Popes are ſet on ſuch a ſtool, which all popiſh Writers cannot but acknowledge: it muſt remain for certain, that in former times it was for proof of their Humanity, upon the accident aforeſaid.

All that hath hitherto been ſaid hath been from their own Authorities. I omit what our *John Bale*, and *Robert*

bert Barnes and other forrain reformed Writers have writ on this ſubject, this being the ſum of all, for little more is recorded of her Life. I muſt omit likewiſe what other animadverſions, exceptions and quarrels the Romaniſts make upon every of the aforeſaid paſſages thereof, as that there were no ſchools at *Athens*, whether ſhe is ſaid to have reſorted for learning, no more then at *Rome*, where it is ſaid ſhe taught publickly, all which are learnedly and with great reaſon refuted by that judicious Controverſiary, Mr. *Alexander Cooke*. Fain would the *Romans* be informed of her parentage, which no queſtion in that ignorance, that clouded the world in that age, they made it little labour to ſuppreſs and hide it themſelves; but they may very well to their ſatisfaction and reſolution in this point be contra-interrogated, who was the firſt Father of Pope *Higinus*, or *Denis*, whoſe Genealogies and Countrey could not be found, as likewiſe *John* the Nineteenth, *Urban* the Fourth was begotten by a Gobler, *John* the Twenty ſecond of a Botcher, *Benedict* the Eleventh of a Laundreſs, *Benedict* the Twelfth of a Miller, *Sixtus* the Fourth of a Marriner, *Adrian* the ſixth of a Brewer, *Sixtus Quintus* of a Swineherd; *Alexander* the Fifth confeſſed he had no Friends, nor never ſaw any ſuch; and finally there is nothing more omitted in Hiſtories, then who were the Popes Fathers.

They will indeed confeſſe, that all this ſmoke that hath been raiſed was not without ſome Fire; for when they perceived they could not overthrow the notoriety of this ſtory, they caſt about how to elude it; and therefore they ſay, that great Lies ariſe out of ſome Truth, for that Pope *John* the Twelfth, whom they confeſſe to have been extraordinarily addicted to Women, among other Wenches that he kept had one called *Joane*, who was all in all with him, and ruled the Roaſt: now the people perceiving what hand ſhe had over him, termed her Pope, and deſpiſed him: whereupon aroſe this ſlander of a Pope *Joan*; this was reinforced and ſeconded by another, that the

people

people had him so much in derision for this effeminacy, that they changed his name, and called him *Joan*; Both which shadows of Excuse or Extenuation have discovered a most shameful story to the reproach of the papacy, and yet of no purpose, effect or advantage to this false suggestion; A suggestion loud enough in the Authors, but the substance of it far more louder in the Actors.

The Truth is, the papists would rather hear of a hundred Popes Nephews, though they be such as *Cæsar Borgia* was to *Alexander* the sixth, his own natural Sonne, tituladoed with that distanced degree of Relation, then hear of this pope Mother and her Son; which story to avoid they are driven to Feign, to Forge, to Cog, to play the Fools, and in plain English to lye all manner of lyes for the covering their shame in this; *Onuphrius*, *Harding*, *Saunders*, *Cope*, *Genebrand*, *Bellarmine*, *Bernardus*, *Florimondus*, *Papyrius Maso*, *Baronius*, *Parsons* and divers others have joyned hand in hand, with purpose to carry this Cause away by strong hand, but are so entangled in it, that it is with them as with Birds in the Lime twigs, which stick faster in, by how much they flitter the more to get out, as by this time it doth appear to all reasonable persons.

And so we will dismiss this Lady of pleasure, once like her seat of *Rome*, the Empress of the World, *Messallina's* or *Faustina's* successor unto the *Brothell* house, A rare head of the Church that could not chuse but be spotlesse and undefiled by such a conspicuous blemish in this female Bishop. Stories are full of such prelates, as have accoutred themselves in Martial habiliments, and changed their Crosier staffe for a Spear and a Lance; but there is no such shameless record as of this she prelate, that changed Saint *Peters* Keys to Scissers, and the Sword to a Distaffe; and because I am mentioning the absurdity thereof, it will not be amisse to shew the inconveniencies that attended the Roman Catholick Religion, by this *Joanes* being admitted Pope.

First, It will necessarily follow that the Church (according as the papists Tenour is) once hopt headlesse; For the

the Church is defined by them to be a company of Christian men professing one Faith, under one Head, to wit, the Pope; but she was no pope, for a Woman is not capable of Holy Orders, and could not play the pope; and secondly, That Church by reason of her, must not be owned as a true Church; for where the lawful orderly entire (without breach) succession of Bishops faileth, that cannot be a true Church, which the Roman Church suffered by reason of pope *Joanes* intervention betwixt *Leo* the Fourth, and *Benedict* the Third; this will hold against *Baronius*, and all assertors of the true succession of the Roman Bishops, who reckon no interruption or *interregnum* thereof though they confesse, that many Apostates, rather then Apostolical persons, have occupied that Room; and that there have been many popes which came irregularly to the papacy, and served for no other purpose then Cyphers in Arithmetick to make up number; Yet this one Woman pope spoyls the play and that pretence, for she cannot be reckoned any way to be Saint *Peters* successor, though we should grant the succession of (a) Fifty popes together, who came in unlawfully, and governed as madly.

(a) *Chronol. lib. 4. sæcul. 10. ad annum 904.*

Thirdly, It being proved there was such a Pope, the popish priests may well doubt of the lawfulness of their mission; and the Lay papists of the sufficiency of the absolutions, which the priests give upon Ear Confessions, and of the Truth of the real presence and Transubstantiation; for unlesse the popish priests be priested by a lawfull Bishop, their priesthood is not worth a Rush; unless the Lay papists be absolved by a lawful priest, their absolution is worth nothing: and unlesse the words of Consecration be uttered by a lawful priest, intent upon his business, there follows no substantial change in the Creatures of Bread and Wine. Now how can the priests be assured that they were priested by lawful Bishops: and how can Lay priests be assured that they are absolved by lawful priests, since we have seen, and they may when they please, that pope

Joane,

Joane, gave Orders, made Deacons, Priests, Bishops and Abbots: For it may be well enough that the priests of this present age, are descended from those who were ordained by her: especially seeing we no where read, that they were degraded by succeeding popes, who had their Ordination from her. Not to mention that high prerogative of infallibility, which the popes pretend to, now resting in a frail seducible Woman, that could not tell so much as the time of her delivery; but so shamefully betrayed the infirmity and weakneſſe of the Apoſtolical Chair.

To conclude, all the Water in the River of *Tyber* will never wash off the pollution and stain, which the abomination of this Pope *Joane* hath stuck upon the pontifical Sanctity and Supremacy.

FINIS